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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,685	03/15/2004	Takashi Ito	5241-0107PUS1	8648
2292 7590 08/20/2009 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				
EXAMINER				
PIERY, MICHAEL T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1791				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/20/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,685

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Examiner

MICHAEL T. PIERY

Art Unit

1791

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/18/09
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 5, 2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kawakita (JP 2002-096344) in view of Kawakita II (JP 2002-096332 – citations refer to English translation provided by applicant).

Regarding claim 1, Kawakita teaches a method comprising the steps of: designing and making, according to the optimized form of the optical device, a temporary molding die for molding the optical device (Paragraph 0020); molding a first temporary optical device by using the temporary molding die (Paragraph 0023); measuring a wavefront aberration of thus molded first temporary optical device and calculating the aberration amount (0024); calculating a correction wavefront aberration compensating for the wavefront aberration (Paragraph 0027); designing by using at least the plurality of optical parameters a second temporary optical device for optimizing a form so as to exhibit the correction wavefront aberration (Paragraph 0033); and designing, according to the optimized form of the second temporary optical device, a normal molding die for molding a normal optical device (Paragraph 0033 and Paragraph 0023). Kawakita II teaches it is known to design an optical device, evaluate the device for wavefront aberrations (paragraphs 0023-0024) and calculate a correction wavefront aberration amount (paragraph 0033). Kawakita II uses an optical simulation and evaluation to calculate the correction wavefront aberration amount not a table prepared beforehand. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the process of

Kawakita to calculate the correction wavefront aberration amount using optical simulation and evaluation because it has been held that substitution of known equivalent calculation methods is within routine skill of one in the art (MPEP 2144.06).

Regarding claim 2, Kawakita teaches a method according to claim 1, as discussed above, further comprising the steps of: molding the normal optical device by using the normal molding die (Drawing 1); measuring a wavefront aberration of thus molded optical device (Paragraph 0024); and recalculating the correction wavefront aberration when the wavefront aberration has a value greater than a predetermined reference value (Paragraph 0027), and repeating subsequent steps until the value of the correction wavefront aberration becomes the reference value or less (Drawing 2).

Regarding claim 3, Kawakita teaches a method according to claim 1, as discussed above, wherein the wavefront aberration correction and wavefront aberration are measured by using an interferometer apparatus for measuring a transmitted wavefront (Paragraph 0024). Kawakita discloses using transmitted wave side measurement; this type of measurement is the function of an interferometer.

Regarding claim 4, Kawakita teaches a method according to claim 1, as discussed above, wherein a plurality of wavefront aberration amounts are measured in a plurality of divided areas, respectively, and respective correction wavefront aberration amounts are calculate for thus measured plurality of wavefront aberration amounts (Paragraph 0024).

Regarding claim 5, Kawakita teaches a method according to claim 1, as discussed above, wherein at least one surface of the optical device is an aspheric surface (Paragraph 0020).

Regarding claim 6, Kawakita teaches a method according to claim 1, as discussed above, wherein the optical device is a single lens, used for an optical pickup objective lens, having aspheric surfaces on both sides (Paragraph 0002).

Regarding claim 7, Kawakita teaches a method according to claim 1, as discussed above, wherein the molding die is used for pres molding or injection molding (Paragraph 0038).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL T. PIERY whose telephone number is (571)270-5047. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on (571) 272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael T Pery/
Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Monica A Huson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791